



MOUNT CROSS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CROSS CONNECTIONS

Pastor David Steffenson

Council PresidentTom Whannell

*Monthly newsletter of the events in the life and fellowship of Mount Cross
Evangelical Lutheran Church in University Place, Washington.*

Mount Cross Mission Statement

We, the members of Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, proclaim that we are called in mission by God through his Son who is Jesus Christ our Lord and empowered by the Holy Spirit to:

REJOICE in the Lord in our daily lives and celebrate God's presence with us in word, deed and sacrament.

RENEW ourselves, each other and the community as we experience God's presence and love for us in worship, music, study and deed.

REACH OUT to each other, the community and the world in love, caring and service for it is in the serving of others that we serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

8902 40th Street West
University Place, WA 98466

8:15 AMSunday Worship
9:15-9:45 AM.....Coffee Fellowship
9:45-10:45 AM.....Sunday School
11:00 AMSunday Worship

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**Noah's Ark
Christian Preschool**
Sept. - May
3 year olds - (Thurs & Fri)
4's & 5's - (Mon-Tues-Wed)

 February Newsletter 2012 

“The Priesthood of All Believers”

Each month in 2012, I am reflecting on some of the bedrock beliefs of our Christian faith. Coinciding with the Season of Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord, I began our year-long journey with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Baptism is our entrance into the Church, the Redeemed Body of Christ. This month I am reflecting on a related topic, namely: “The Priesthood of All Believers” and the gift of “Vocation”. In baptism we are called to “let our lights shine before others so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven”. We are saved for a purpose! We are God’s calling cards. We are God’s portable temples of worship and praise in daily life. Once again hymnody leads the way: “We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God”—ELW #720. “Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart”—ELW #574. “Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult of our life’s wild restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying ‘Christian, follow me.’”—ELW #696.

Who’s calling? God is the author of our calling. Whose calling? The call belongs to the priesthood of all believers. Scripture recites numerous call narratives. In the Creation Story, God calls Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, to till the earth and keep the Garden. God calls Cain to be Brother Abel’s keeper. God calls Abraham to be a seed of blessing for all nations. When God calls Jeremiah, the prophet complains that he’s too young and inexperienced. When God calls Isaiah, the prophet says, “Here Am I LORD. Send Me!” It took three tries for Eli to recognize a call from God and on the fourth try Samuel said, “Speak LORD for your servant is listening.” God called a reluctant and run-away Jonah to speak words of repentance to sinful Nineveh. People usually catch fish, but

God uses a big fish to catch Jonah, and forgiveness to catch sinners. God is a persistent caller, refusing to take “No” for an answer. The call creates the response and guarantees the catch. God goes fishing and never gets skunked. “Rabbi, where are you abiding?” Jesus says, “Come and you will see.” Jesus guarantees Epiphany! Walking along the Sea of Galilee, Jesus commands four fishermen: “Follow Me and I WILL MAKE YOU fish for people.”

I Peter is a baptismal homily. St. Peter reminds us of our priestly calling: “We are scattered seeds and living stones. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God’s own people.” We are consecrated for a purpose: “To proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called us out darkness into His marvelous light.” In baptism we receive a new birth and an imperishable inheritance; the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. In Baptism we receive a “Great Commission” Calling/Vocation. Baptism, prefigured in the waters of the Flood, now saves us (I Peter 3:21). Baptism is our ordination rite (I Peter 2:5).

Martin Luther writes, “All Christians have the same status. Citing I Peter 2:9 (‘You are a royal priesthood and a priestly realm’) and Rev. 5:9-10 (‘Thou has made us to be priests and kings by thy blood’), Luther describes that status as ‘priest’ and ascribes it to every Christian, ‘As far as that goes, we are all consecrated priests through baptism.’ So what differentiates Christians is simply the work that God has given them to do: There is no true, basic difference between laymen and priests, princes and bishops, between religious and secular, except for the sake of office and work, but not for the sake of status. They are all of the spiritual estate....But they do not all have the same work to



do. For whoever comes out of the water of baptism can boast that he is already a consecrated priest, bishop, and pope.”—WA 6:407.22-23 and WA 6:408.11-12, 26-30. Our stations in life differ, but our calling is the same: “Having put on Christ in the waters of regeneration, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. We are all one in Christ Jesus”—Galatians 3:27-28. We have different roles to play, but equal value to share!

So what’s your calling, and how are you living it out your priestly vocation publicly in daily life? The Latin word for calling is “vocation”. Lutherans use the word “vocation” to refer to our common calling as sons and daughters of God living out our lives in the world. “Vocation” is not merely a reference to clergy who are paid professionals living out their baptismal calling in the station of Church. Each of us is called to glorify God and serve our neighbor in our various stations of daily life; as spouse, parent, child, citizen, student, employee, boss, etc. “Vocation” includes one’s occupation or job, but is not limited to what one does for a living. Our baptismal calling demands that we build an altar in the workplace, home-place, and play-place. Christians are on call 24-7. In truth, there is no distinction between secular and sacred work. All work is sacred service, because our justified-by-faith-alone-bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Vocation is God’s work; a mask of God. God is hidden in vocation; Christ is hidden in our neighbors. Our stations and callings in life are all opportunities, as well as duties, for faith to be lived out fruitfully, publicly, for the sake of the neighbor and the glory of God. Worship is what we do 24-7, not just for an hour on Sunday mornings. They may, or may not, know we are Christians by our love; “vocation” allows us to show and tell!

Vocation doesn’t mean that daily life is all fun and games. We may not always enjoy our jobs or the tedious elements of our daily stations. Our callings are not intended to simply increase self-esteem or bring us personal fulfillment. The Rev. Dr. Marc Kolden, in his book Called by the Gospel, writes, “The creative purpose of vocation is to help us to serve God and keep his world going; but the redemptive purpose of our vocation is to discipline us.” “Without vocation, the gospel would be cheap grace—resurrection without crucifixion.” “Vocation is the way of life with a cross at its center.” “In the demands and sufferings of our callings we are crucified with Christ.”—Pages 57-58. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book The Cost of Discipleship writes, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Martin Luther reminds us that “Christians preoccupied with their families, struggling to make ends meet, living their mundane lives are all in a state of holiness, living holy lives before God.” The doctrine of vocation is the theology of the Christian life.

St. Paul writes, “Let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned you, to which God called you”—I Corinthians 7:17. As members of the “priesthood of all believers” we are called to practice our vocations in daily life, for the love of Jesus, the glory of God, and the good of the neighbor. We priests and priestesses present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship (Romans 12:1). Baptism gives us our calling. God lives and breathes in our portable temples at home, at work, and at play. Build an altar and enjoy your callings!

Vocationally Challenged, *Pastor Dave*



January 19, 2012 Council Highlights

- During 2011, Mount Cross paid \$45,285 for benevolences from general funds and \$11,685 from designated funds.
- Laura Bye was approved as an interim council member until our annual meeting in May.
- Servant Team annual reports are due to the church office by April 1.
- Compassion Weekend offering envelopes will be mailed out in March for collection in April.
- We have placed postings at Pierce College and Tacoma Community College for our Nursery attendant position.
- The February council meeting was changed to the 28th to accommodate a change in Pastor Dave's schedule.

Upcoming Events

Website Changes

Our church website is going through some changes. We have added a few pages such as an informational page about our Taize worship and a weekly updated page containing important announcements. The Grand Sweep Blog will be kept active for reference and reflection purposes; however comments can no longer be added to the posts. Finally, we have begun uploading the sermons; these will be posted to the website on Thursday of each week. Please take time to search around and explore these exciting changes. If you would like to see any changes made, please contact the church office. We greatly appreciate any and all suggestions. A huge thank you to Brian Hinkley and Michael Engstrom for everything they have done and continue to do with this project! Visit us on the web at:

www.mountcrosslutheran.org

Souper Bowl Sunday CHANGE

There is a change for Souper Bowl Sunday (Feb. 5) we will not be hosting a soup lunch, but instead the Mount Cross Youth will be collecting money for ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Please bring cans of soup, stew, or chili to place on the Altar of Food. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Lindberg in the church office.



February—Wednesday Night Dinners Update

Because of the snow and ice storm, we had to cancel the January 18th Confirmation Class and dinner. We have rescheduled for February 1st dinner at 5:30 pm and class at 6:15pm. Please remember that there won't be dinner on February 8 and 15th. Don't forget that Soup Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 pm.

Soup Suppers

Don't forget to sign up in the Gathering Space for Soup Suppers. Lent is just around the corner, so sign up to bring soup and/or bread rolls. Soup Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6:00 pm.

Feb. 22: Friday Morning Women's Study

Feb. 29: Great Commission

March 7: Fellowship of Believers

March 14: Men's 8 AM Thursday Bible Study

March 21: Peace & Justice

March 28: SONRisers Men's Study

Taize Prayer Service

Taize prayer is prayer that includes repetition and silence and the insertion of those elements into liturgy. Repetition allows each person to commune with the living God. Silence is holding oneself in a presence and letting Christ, through the Holy Spirit, pray in us. These are the parts of Taize that help us to meditate and pray throughout the service.

Come and join us for Taize worship. It has been said that prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection. Come and experience and get connected. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wiley at (253) 588-4801.

Taize Dates: Sundays at 6:30 pm: February 19, March 18, April 22, and May 20



Palm Fronds

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Do you remember where you put your Palm Frond from last year's Palm Sunday Service is located? We will be collecting the palm fronds on Sunday, February 19th and burning them into ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. On Wednesday evenings during Lent we will share a fellowship meal of soup at 6 p.m. and enjoy Lenten dramas ("Half-Baked Lent") during our Worship Service at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars.

Fundraiser—Save the Date:

Preschool TAKEOVER at Joeseppis on **Sunday, February 26** from 4-8 p.m. Enjoy great food and help support the ministry of our Mount Cross Noah's Ark Christian Preschool!





Compassion Weekend

On May 5 and 6, 2012, Mount Cross will participate in a Compassion Weekend for the second time, joining together for service projects in our community. Compassion Weekend was born out of a dream to see the church increasingly engaged in acts of service and compassion, sharing the love of Jesus in simple, yet powerful ways... touching lives and opening up new relationships between churches, neighbors, schools, and ministries in the process. This year we are dedicating the weekend of May 5 and 6, 2012 to reach out to our community, following these principles:

- ◆ Meet actual needs of people in our community
- ◆ Allow a range of ages, interests and skill levels to serve
- ◆ Allow for active engagement with those being served
- ◆ Have the potential for building longer-term relationships
- ◆ Not create extra costs for servants or partnering ministries. We'll not only work, we will pay for what we do.

Following is a list of opportunities ripe for the Lord's harvest. Would you be willing to help organize or volunteer for one of these projects, or for a different one you have in mind? Please call one of the committee members or church office by February 24, 2012 to indicate your interest. Steering committee members are Doug Bischoff, Laura Caddey, Becky Hoffman, Dave McInturff, and Becki Sternal.

- ◆ Assembling dresser kits and collecting furniture with Northwest Furniture Bank
- ◆ Cleaning and stocking shelves, washing delivery vehicles, and providing hospitality to clients of the Families Unlimited Network (F.U.N.) food bank
- ◆ Spring cleanup of the garden and playground of the YWCA Women's shelter
- ◆ Baking snacks for clients and volunteers in various ministries like Peace Community Center, Habitat for Humanity, and the F.U.N. SPOT program
- ◆ Constructing a storage shed for community mobilization projects with Associated Ministries
- ◆ Serving residents and caregivers with visitation, garden clean up, vehicle washing, hospitality, and decorating at the Tacoma Lutheran Home
- ◆ Serving a meal to families staying in the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital "Tree House" while their children are hospitalized.
- ◆ Assembling personal health or school kits for Lutheran World Relief



Youth & Family News...

Attention All 6th-12th Grade Youth!

Are you interested in getting away for a weekend to join in fellowship with other youth in our synod? The A.L.Y.V.E. Board Combined Youth Gathering is March 9th-11th at Black Lake Bible Camp in Olympia. The cost is just \$125 per participant. If you are interested in attending this event, please let Jamie Lindberg know. Watch the bulletin this month for more details!

6th-8th Grade Youth Group Dates

Sunday, February 5th - Souper Bowl Sunday Service Event

Come and help collect donations for ELCA World Hunger for Souper Bowl Sunday. No evening youth group.

Sunday, February 12th - Regular Youth Group

Sunday, February 19th - Regular Youth Group

Sunday, February 26th - Regular Youth Group

One parent or volunteer is needed each week to assist Jamie with youth group. Send an email to her at youth@mountcrosslutheran.org and list any Sundays that you would be willing to help. Thank you!

9th-12th Grade Youth Group Dates

Sunday, February 5th - Souper Bowl Sunday Service Event

Come and help collect donations for ELCA World Hunger for Souper Bowl Sunday.

Saturday, February 25th - High School Monthly Event

Activity to be determined. Save the Date and watch for information in the Bulletin. (Have a great idea? Let Jamie know!)



Youth & Family News...



Youth Gathering Porcelain Porcine Promotions

"Citizens with the Saints" Adopt a Piggy Bank Program **UPDATE!**

A big dinky thank you to all those who purchased a pig at the silent auction! We appreciate the support and sponsorship of our youth. For those of you who missed out on these original artist creations do not despair! Anyone can donate to the cause by bringing your change, currency, checks, money orders, lotto numbers; credit cards...ok not credit cards...and putting them into the pig barn. We will also be having other events to participate in the effort so stay tuned!

Let the fun begin as you see how many places you can bring your pig and get people to donate. Bible study, Wednesday night, super bowl parties, PTA meetings, board meetings, shopping...Or maybe your pig is a homebody and your just filling it there. We just hope that the pigs are having a good time and maybe the can be a starting point to talk to others about our church.

Have you figured out who painted your pig? The artists are Nate Falk, Braden and Logan Ash, David Howard, Kortney Hudak, Chris Caddey, Nick Goodpastor, and Kathleen Burks. Would you like to leave a message to your artist? Just drop an email to the church office c/o pig patrol and we will get your message to your artist. Your artist will be sending notes of love and encouragement, and during the Youth Gathering trip pigs and sponsors will receive an update on how everything is going.

Bring your pig back to church On May 6th (or the Monday after if you are out on a compassion weekend service project) to be reunited with their youth and learn who painted your pig. The money will be removed and the pigs will go home with their sponsors (this too can be anonymous if requested).

In July of 2012 these 8 young members will travel to New Orleans to gather with 30,000 other ELCA youth to learn how they can be citizens with the saints. We really want to make sure that our youth can ham it up in New Orleans!



Resolutions for a Healthier Relationship

For many people, a new year brings resolutions to improve different aspects of their lives. Striving to maintain better physical or financial health is a worthy goal, but what about Improving the health of relationships? National Marriage Week originated in the U.K. in 1996 and has since spread to several countries, including the United States. National Marriage Week USA runs every year from February 7-14. It is a creative campaign that coincides with the Valentine's Day holiday in an attempt to deepen and extend this day in the minds of couples. New Year's resolutions and Valentine's Day romance provide great motivation for couples to take a closer look at their relationship, learn new skills, and develop them into long-term habits. Just like getting more exercise benefits physical well-being, investing energy into enriching and maintaining relationships benefits relationship well-being.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE...

Grades 2-4: Special thanks to the parents and youth who offered a gift of music on Sunday, January 29: “The Welcome Table Song”. Due to the recent snow/ice storm, a final session of class has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 (6:15-7:30 p.m.). Wednesday night dinner will be hosted by Nancy Morrow and friends beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 1.

Grades 7-8: Youth will be participating in a Sexuality Retreat on Friday-Saturday, February 10-11 at Mount Cross. A letter describing the content and schedule of this Retreat will soon be in the mail. During the Season of Lent, youth and their families will be practicing family devotions by reading “Favorite Old Testament Stories”. A ten-week class on the New Testament begins after Easter on Wednesday, April 11.

Grade 9: Youth (Kalen Keim, Rachel Burks, & Kathleen Burks) and their mentors (Judy Williams, Gail Jepson, & Nancy Morrow) are reminded to stay current with their confirmation requirements. The Faith Retreat is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, April 27-28 on Anderson Island.

2012 Vacation Bible School: SONRISE National Park July 30-August 3

Planning has started for this year’s VBS! The theme and the dates are set and now all we need is YOU! **Janet Nelson** has volunteered to be our VBS Coordinator. We are looking for a treasurer, and a publicity chair. If you are interested in one of these positions please or just being a volunteer, contact Janet Nelson at (253) 460-1703 or docntom@wamail.net.





Noah's Ark Christian Preschool

Parent Conferences

At the beginning of the month we have scheduled classroom conferences with parents to discuss their children's progress in school. The conference date for the four and five year olds will be on Wednesday, February 8th, while on Thursday the 9th we will be talking to the parents of the three year olds. There will be no preschool on those two days.

"Gift of Music Sunday"

On Sunday, February 12, the preschool students will be singing songs that Pastor Dave Steffenson has taught them. We look forward to this very special performance at the 11:00 a.m. service.

**Joeseppi's Italian Ristorante Takeover
To Benefit: Noah's Ark Christian Preschool
Sunday, February 26, 2012
4:00 p.m. To 8:00 p.m.
2207 North Pearl Street, Tacoma**

Come join the fun and have a memorable meal!

The areas of study this month are: colors and shapes, our presidents, and fire safety.

Events coming up:

February 1, 3, 10, 15 & 29: Chapel Time visits with Pastor Dave Steffenson.

February 10: Friday, 3 year olds Valentine's Day Party.

February 14: Tuesday, 4 & 5 year olds Valentine's Day Party.

February 20—24: Mid-Winter Break – NO PRESCHOOL.

March 16: All-Preschool Class Picture Day at 9:00 a.m.

~Pam Erickson



Getting To Know You Better...Gary & Cheryl Spidahl

"We always talked about a new adventure –doing something different with our lives," shares Cheryl in telling how she and Gary decided to leave their hometown Cannon Falls, Minnesota and begin a new life in Anchorage, Alaska. Gary grew up on a farm outside of town and Cheryl was a "city girl" in the town of 3,000 inhabitants. They had started dating when Cheryl was a senior in high school and Gary was a student at the University of Minnesota and were married at the local ELCA church in 1965. Recruiters for Alaskan schools came to the U of M campus looking for teachers and Gary and Cheryl thought "why not" and left for Alaska in 1967. They loaded a truck and trailer with their belongings and were off on their "adventure". After driving through Canada they took a ferry from Prince Rupert and were awestruck with their surroundings, as they had "never seen country like that before".

Anchorage provided "a way of life so unique that it is hard to put in words and that couldn't be duplicated anywhere else". Over the years Gary taught in elementary as well as middle school, was a high school coach and did commercial fishing in the summer months. He also had a small plane that he piloted to duck hunting in the tideflats and visiting friends. Cheryl completed a dental assistant's program in Alaska and worked for the next twenty-eight years in that field finishing her time as the person in charge of insurance for the office.

Their son Seth was born in 1973 and the family led an active outdoors life – crossing country skiing, hiking, biking, and running. Cheryl was an avid jazzercise participant before getting into competitive running in 1983 when she ran in an all women's 10 K race and has "been going ever since". She graduated to participating in marathons and remembers doing a twenty-one mile run while training in October 1990 when the temperature was fifteen degrees below zero. Cheryl ran in seven marathons over the years in Seattle, New York, Boston, Victoria BC and others.

Gary is an avid biker who has ridden around Mt. Rainier in one day and done the Chilly Hilly and the Seattle to Portland as well as other rides. He also enjoys running and has participated in many races. Regarding the weather and darkness during winter in Alaska they "just got out and did it – never gave it a second thought". They also enjoy the big island of Hawaii and have spent their Christmas vacations there for the past thirty years.

When Seth graduated from Pacific Lutheran University he decided to live in the Pacific Northwest. Gary and Cheryl moved to this area when they retired in 1996. Gary presently teaches part-time at Curtis Junior High and coaches girls' soccer and track.

They had visited churches when they moved here and especially liked Mount Cross, as it was very "similar to their church in Alaska in size and the warmth of the people". Shortly after joining they "heard a pastor was coming from Minnesota and knew that had to be good and right". They are both active members. Gary serves on church council, chairs the mutual ministry committee and often operates as sound technician for services. Cheryl is a counter, former financial secretary, reader and helped with compassion weekend. She also volunteers at the Steilacoom Community Center and is a member of the Garden Club.

Cheryl and Gary continue their active outdoor lives with running, kayaking, biking, walking and are "so grateful for being healthy and able to participate in those physical activities". They both thoroughly enjoy spending time with their grandson Zachary who will turn five this year. "We love homemade cinnamon rolls and treasure the simple things in life". In looking back over their years in Alaska and now in Washington, Cheryl shares that "Gary and I wouldn't change a day of our lives".



Adult Education



- February 5:** The Suffering Servant (Isaiah Chapters 50 – 54)
- February 12:** Biblical Sources of our Liturgy by Warren Morrow
- February 19:** Israel Trip Report by Rev. Neal Snider (pending)
- February 26:** Servant Team Fair –Library Servant Group (Great Commission)

The Adult Education Study meets every Sunday at 9:45 am in the Multi-Purpose Room downstairs.

Servant Team Fair - Looking Ahead!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Planning for Lent is already in the works! During the five Sundays in Lent, Mount Cross will be featuring its five Servant Teams on Sunday mornings, helping members deepen our mutual understanding of the ministries that are done in Christ's name by each Servant Team & the members of Mount Cross. The five Servant Teams provide the umbrella under which Mount Cross seeks to accomplish our mission of "Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out in the name of Jesus with the saving love of God." The five Servant Teams provide the underpinnings by which we "lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim". Each week during the season of Lent, we will hear the stories of each Servant Team. We will be invited not only to learn new things about each Servant Team, but also how we can participate more fully in the servant team work of our congregation. Display tables & bulletin boards will be assembled in the Gathering Space, inserts will appear in the worship bulletins, and the Adult Education Hour will coincide each week with the ministries of each Servant Team.

Servant Team Schedule:

Date:	Servant Team:	Adult Education:
Sunday, February 26	Great Commission Servant Fair	Library
Sunday, March 4	Good Stewards Servant Fair	Personal Finances
Sunday, March 11	Peace & Justice Servant Fair	Living Stones Prison Ministry
Sunday, March 18	Worship & Welcome Servant Fair	Taize Worship
Sunday, March 25	Fellowship of Believers Servant Fair	Koinonia



Spotlight on Mission: Families Unlimited Network

Mount Cross has partnered with Families Unlimited Network since 2006. The partnership was formed because of a desire to reach out in the name of Christ to the growing number of people coming to Mount Cross seeking help with food, rental and utility assistance, gas, money and day-to-day survival.

The need is there: Using free and reduced lunch numbers from our schools as an indicator, the need for services has increased by 10% over the last 5 years. Families Unlimited Network (FUN) currently has three main programs to meet those needs: the Food Bank, Family Services and the Spot after school program. We are one of several churches in University Place that are involved in this outreach to the community.

The Peace and Justice Servant Team feels that our investment in this ministry is justified. There is a new strategic plan in place (see website below) and The Families Unlimited Network board and staff responsibly manage a budget with annual overhead costs of less than 10%. This is a remarkably low number and compares very favorably with other effective and efficient non-profit service organizations.

Our giving: Last year we gave \$6,792.00 to FUN. In addition, we donated 2,557 pounds of food from our regular donations and the Altar of Food in January. In October, Mount Cross served the meal for the annual Simple supper, which raised over \$22,000 dollars for Families Unlimited Network. This year our giving will likely increase as we have increased our Mount Cross Budget allocation for FUN from 15 percent to 25 percent.

Our participation: Our congregational participation is likely close to 100%. Peter Gulsrud is currently serving on the board of FUN. Numerous members including Leslie Brantner, Joan Christensen, Jim Leighty, Ann Leighty, Jan Vandervort and Leo Vandervort are serving as regular volunteers at the Food Bank. Roger Knapp has been responsible for catering and serving the FUN Simple Supper over the last 3 years. If you have made a donation to the Food Bank, helped with tutoring, or purchased a gift for the Giving Tree, you have participated in our partnership with Families Unlimited Network.

Service opportunities: The Food Bank has volunteer shifts every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There are ongoing opportunities to serve on various cleaning crews. The Spot program, which serves students in grades 3 – 7 after school, is always in need of tutors.

For more information go to:

www.familiesunlimitednetwork.org/FamiliesUnlimitedNetwork/Home.html



Announcements

Dear Mount Cross Family,

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make cookies for Fred Rapp's Memorial Service. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Charlotte Larson

Thank You!

Thank you to Rich Nace and the carolers! What a special treat to see and hear you singing at Laurel House during the holidays. Christmas carols were enjoyed by Charlotte and Lucian Rice, many other residents, and myself.

Blessings, Kim Forster

An Invitation from Rev. Steve Ray, Executive Director of chinaconnect:

Once again, Chinaconnect is in search of volunteers to teach English this summer in China. One doesn't need to be a trained teacher, but have a willing heart to give of themselves to teach Oral English to Chinese English teachers. Dates are from July 1-30 with an option for travel to Xi'an and Lhasa, Tibet after teaching. Cost for this program is \$1,400.00 (not including airfare, China Visa, or after teaching travel). Building upon last summer's success, Chinaconnect is also planning a Youth Culture and Service Project this summer. Our Service Project will be spending 3 days at an Orphanage near Tianjin, and 6 days in the city Nanchang, Jiangxi Province working with the a large high school. Dates are July 11-26 with sightseeing in Beijing and Nanchang area. Cost for this program is \$1,275.00 (not including airfare and China Visa). Groups and individuals are welcome to apply. For further details, please contact Pastor Steven Ray at sray@chinaconnectonline.org or via telephone at 253.225.5989. Chinaconnect looks forward to hearing from you! Join us as we serve the people of China this summer!



CDs of the worship services are each week at the Welcome Center, just inside the front doors to the Gathering Space. They are recorded in loving memory of all the saints of Mount Cross. Members and guests are welcome to take a copy for themselves or a friend. *(If you know of shut-ins who would like a CD delivered, contact Joe Anna Jacobson at 564-0906.)*

Newsletter Assembly

Our NEW copier is here and does most of the assembly for our bulletins and newsletters. We do still need a couple of people to stuff inserts for the bulletin and calendars into the newsletters. This will take place on **Friday, February 24 at 11:00 am**. We hope you can make it. See you then!





DECEMBER 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Current Month	2011 Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income:	\$46,368	\$500,789	\$525,600
Budget Expenses:			
Fellowship of Believers	\$457	\$3,565	\$5,200
Good Stewards	\$3,477	\$84,405	\$95,827
Great Commission	\$996	\$8,188	\$12,025
Peace & Justice	\$7,783	\$45,285	\$33,525
Worship & Welcome	\$1,327	\$6,015	\$7,975
Staffing Costs	\$32,618	\$325,970	\$355,603
Administrative	\$2,330	\$14,722	\$15,445
Total Expenses:	\$48,989	\$488,149	\$525,600
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$14,322	
Surplus from Previous Years		\$3,944	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		\$18,266	
Designated Funds			
Income	\$11,679	\$98,537	
Expense	\$5,725	\$46,973	
Benevolences Paid			
From Budget Funds	\$7,783	\$45,285	
From Non-budget Funds	\$6,950	\$11,685	
2011 Loan Activity (Interest @ 5.375%)			
Beginning Balance		\$502,037.00	
Payments Made		\$56,203.84	
Interest Paid		\$23,864.40	
Principal Paid		\$32,339.44	
Ending Balance		\$469,697.56	





CROSS CONNECTIONS
8902—40th Street West
University Place, WA 98466-1544

Change Service Requested

February 2012

